FRAMEWORK FOR IDENTIFYING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont/Western shore

Chronological/Development Period(s):

Modern Period (1945-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Military (World War II/Post World War II Era)
Engineering/Invention

Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural): suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Laboratories for testing and development of military (Navy) weapons systems.

Known Design Source:

Eggers & Higgins, Architects, New York, New York
Taylor & Fisher, Baltimore, Associates

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. M:33-17
Magi No.
DOE ___ Yes ___ No

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic: White Oak Technical—Public Works Shop

and/or common: Building 25

2. Location

street & number: 10901 New Hampshire Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town: Silver Spring ___ vicinity of congressional district 4th

state: Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	X public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	___ not applicable	___ no	X military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name: U.S. Navy - White Oak Laboratory

street & number: 10901 New Hampshire Ave. telephone no.

city, town: Silver Spring state and zip code MD 20903-5000

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber

street & number folio

city, town state:

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state:

7. Description

Survey No. MM:33-17

Condition		Check one	Check one	
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site	date of move ___
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved	
___ fair	___ unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Building 25 is the northern most of the five large administration/laboratory buildings that comprise the center of the Front Area at the White Oak Laboratory. It serves as a bridge, both spatially and functionally, between administration/laboratory buildings and the laboratory/shop buildings that are located just to the northeast of Building 25. Constructed in 1947, Building 25 is a two story brick structure with a rectangular plan measuring 406-feet long by 161-feet wide.

Building 25 is oriented along a southwest-northeast axis which is perpendicular to the front of the administration and laboratory area as established by the orientation of Building 1-4 and New Hampshire Avenue. As a result of this orientation, the main entrance to this building is on the narrow western side of the building. However, Building 25 still maintains the symmetrical fenestration that characterizes the principal administration and laboratory buildings of the Front Area at White Oak.

The symmetrical facade, which faces parking lots to the west, is divided into three sections. The middle section is five bays wide and projects slightly forward, setting it off from the plane of the two flanking sections. The brick of Building 25 is American bond with five stretcher row per header row. The coping atop the second story main facade is rectangular cut limestone.

The design of the centrally placed main entrance parallels that found on the other buildings in the Front Area at White Oak. It consists of a pair of plate glass doors with a flat unadorned overhang. Around the door, a rectangular border of limestone extends upward, enclosing the window on the second level above the door. The area between the overhang and the second level window is greenstone.

Greenstone is also used to fill the area between the first and second level windows in the two bays that flank the center entrance. These windows are also framed by slightly recessed brick. A running band of cut limestone extends across the central five bays of the facade at a height so that it forms the sill for each of the windows on the first level.

The three pairs of windows in each of the flanking side areas lack the limestone and brick decoration of the central section.

The interior of Building 25, as well as the other administration and small laboratory buildings in the Front Area at White Oak are largely similar, consisting of long narrow corridors forming a spine for each structure. Offices and laboratories in a variety of sizes and shapes, from rectangular one person offices to large high ceiling machine shops, open off the central hallway.

The majority of interior walls are undecorated painted metal. Non-load-bearing walls have been constructed to create specialized space and divide large rooms into smaller ones. These walls are frequently of the same metal panels used in the hallways. More recent temporary, movable walls and partitions have been used to create individual work areas in some large rooms. Some of the load-bearing walls have been left uncovered, exposing yellow glazed concrete block. This is especially evident along outside walls and around the stair wells and elevators. The floors are linoleum tile which have been covered with carpets in some of the administrative offices.

Suspended ceilings have been added in most areas to cover the formerly exposed utility lines. The original incandescent lights have been replaced with fluorescent lights. Ceilings are still relatively high, contributing to the narrow feeling of some of the hallways.

The interior rear (eastern) section of Building 25 is three bays wide and houses large shop and equipment areas. The open interiors extend to the roof permitting light/illumination and ventilation through large eastward facing skylights. These sloping skylights, which cover nearly the entire roof of Building 25, give the roof a "saw-tooth" appearance when the building is viewed in profile. The skylights located on the roof above the western portion of the building, which now consists of offices, have been blacked out and concealed behind the suspended ceilings but appear to be relatively intact.

The interior load-bearing walls that separate the work areas in the large shops and laboratories are typically of brick lain in the same bond as the exterior walls, although windows when filled may vary in pattern or material (e.g., concrete block).

Along the northside of Building 25 is an open area for the storage of materials. Extending out from the side of the building and over the stored material area is a framework of I-beams that support a traveling overhead crane that runs nearly the length of the building. A similar traveling overhead crane (10 ton capacity) is found in the large central bay at the eastern end of the building. Smaller wall-mounted hoists are found along the walls.

8. Significance

Survey No. M:33-17

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archaeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archaeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 500-1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600-1699	___ architecture	___ education	X military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800-1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1945-1949 **Builder/Architect** U.S. Navy/Eggers & Higgins, N.Y.

check: Applicable Criteria: __ A __ B __ C __ D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __ A __ B __ C __ D __ E __ F __ G

Level of Significance: __national __ state __ local None

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Statement of Significance

Discussions of the potential NRHP eligibility of Building 25 which is one of the eight World War II era structures that comprise the Front Area at the White Oak Laboratory are influenced by three factors:

- The apparent absence of unique and significant events/developments or persons associated primarily with Naval activities at White Oak;
- The absence of unique architectural styles or architecture that embodies the best characteristics of a style or period; and,
- The relatively recent age (e.g., construction of the first structure was begun in 1945) in light of the absence of overwhelming significance as noted above.

Historical background and significance:

Established when existing facilities of the Naval Ordnance Laboratory became insufficient to meet the increasing need for Research, Development, Testing, and Evaluation facilities late during World War II, the White Oak Laboratory was only one of a variety of such facilities established throughout the areas of Maryland and Virginia around Washington, D.C. These technical and administrative centers were developed to maximize accessibility to military headquarters in Washington while being located in areas that provided the environmental conditions necessary for the performance of their missions and the social atmosphere necessary to attract and keep skilled personnel. For White Oak, these resources included the scientific/academic community of Washington and the surrounding area of Maryland while still being somewhat removed from the city congestion and security problems presented by a more urban center. Also, electromagnetic experiments (conducted in areas east of the Front Area) required magnetically neutral conditions.

The White Oak facility that developed during the final years of World War II reflected administrative and research work that was task-specific, contributing to larger weapons system development programs that included work done at other naval facilities. White Oak remained a group of buildings housing offices, laboratories, and shops designed for the tasks at hand. Upon completion of a set of activities, the facilities were refitted for the next set of required tasks. As a result, the facilities in the Front Area of White Oak were continuously changing with new sets of equipment installed for as long as necessary, before they were replaced or moved to a new area of White Oak or to another naval facility.

The result of this role for White Oak was that, while it was an integral part of the Naval research and development program during World War II, there are no obvious manifestations of that role in the buildings or the setting of the Front Area of the White Oak Laboratory as they exist today, the generally high degree of integrity of location, setting and design not withstanding.

Building 25, as well as all of the structures of the Front Area, whether viewed individually or as a potential district, do not exhibit the integrity of association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of history (i.e., NRHP Criteria a, 36 CFR 60.4).

The Naval Ordnance Laboratory, while housed at White Oak, included Naval and civilian personnel who may have achieved considerable personal or professional renown. However, such individual importance was not connected with their tenure at White Oak and so would not satisfy NRHP Criteria b.

Since White Oak is a product of Navy activities begun during World War II and a relatively recent entity, it is unlikely that Building 25, or any component of the environment of the Front Area has the potential to yield information important to history itself. White Oak's potential historic importance lies in the scientific developments that have occurred there. Information about these developments are likely to be contained in documentary sources such as scientific notes and archives that exist separately from the physical structures that constitute the Front Area of White Oak. In addition, detailed plans and drawings exist that document the buildings of the Front Area are archived by the Public Works Department at White Oak, further reducing the potential for NRHP eligibility under Criteria d.

Building 25 exhibits the principal design shared by the original administration/laboratory buildings of the Front Area at White Oak. The exterior facades of any of these buildings (with the exception of Building 71) have not been substantially modified and appear largely the same as they would have shortly after their construction.

Although this building has maintained its architectural integrity, the combination of the campus-like setting and the "starved classicism" style that is expressed is not unique in the architecture of the period, or in federal buildings in general in the region around Washington, D.C. The stylistic elements suggests the continuation of modern architectural influences on the more formal classical designs as expressed in other buildings designed during the 1920s and the 1930s.

The buildings of the Front Area do not appear to satisfy eligibility Criteria C, for inclusion in the NRHP since they are neither distinctive examples of this architectural type nor "a significant and distinguishable entity" (U.S. Department of the Interior 1991).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M:33-17

Anonymous, 1959, "History of the Naval Ordnance Laboratory", manuscript on file at NSWC, White Oak, Maryland.

Craig, Lois, 1978, *The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in United States Government Buildings*, The MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Dittman, Richard B., 1973, letter to Stanley S. Jones, U.S. Naval Ordnance Laboratory, White Oak, Maryland, January 29, 1973, on file at Department of Public Works, NSWC, White Oak, Maryland.

Greenhorne & O'Mara, Inc., 1992, *Historic and Archaeological Resources Protection (HARP) Plan for Naval Surface Warfare Center, White Oak, Maryland,* on file at U.S. Navy, Engineering Field Activity-Chesapeake, Washington, Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.

Smaldone, Joseph P., 1977, *History of the White Oak Laboratory 1945-1975*, Naval Surface Weapons Center, Silver Spring, Maryland.

U.S. Naval Ordnance Laboratory, 1949, The U.S. Naval Ordnance Laboratory; General and Descriptive Information.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name	Beltsville, MD			**Quadrangle scale**	7.5 Min.		
UTM **References**	do NOT complete UTM references						
A	Zone	Easting	Northing	**B**	Zone	Easting	Northing
C				**D**			
E				**F**			
G				**H**			

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	Maryland	code	MD	county	Montgomery	code	031
state		code		county		code	

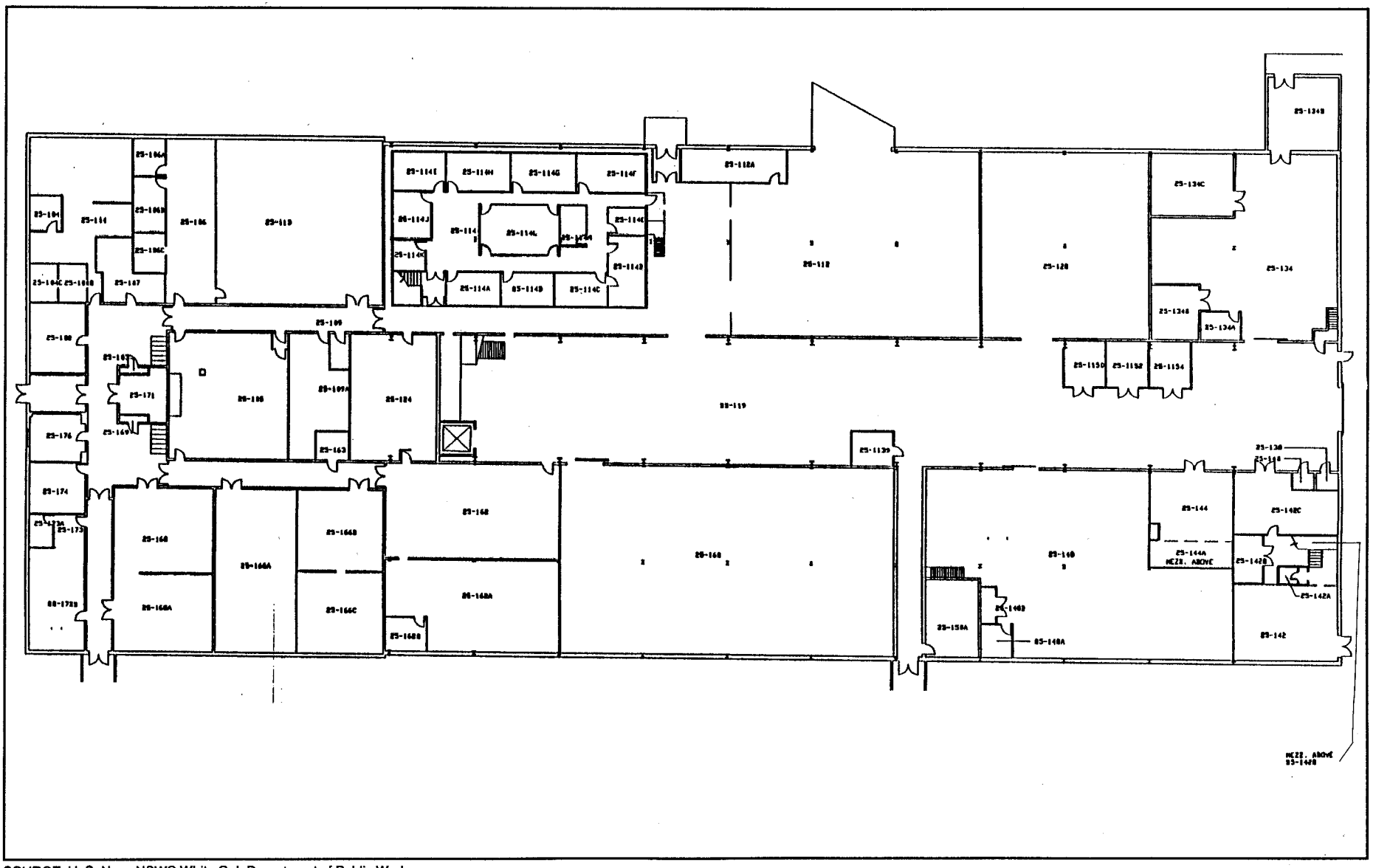
11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Mark Rosenzweig, Ph.D./Chief Archaeologist		
organization	Ecology and Environment, Inc.	date	March 25, 1994
street & number	368 Pleasantview Drive	telephone	716/684-8060
city or town	Lancaster	state	New York

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

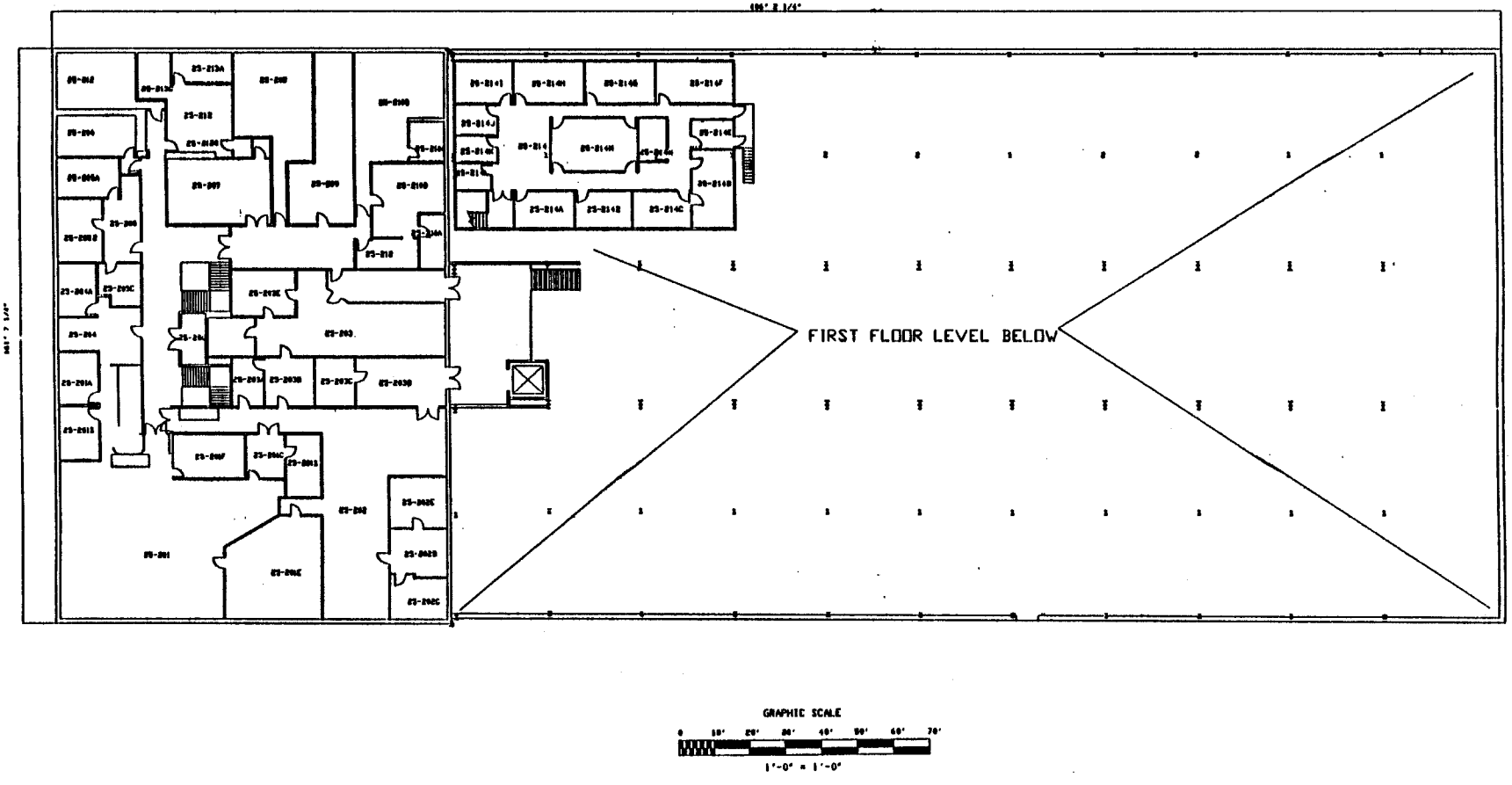
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
514-7600



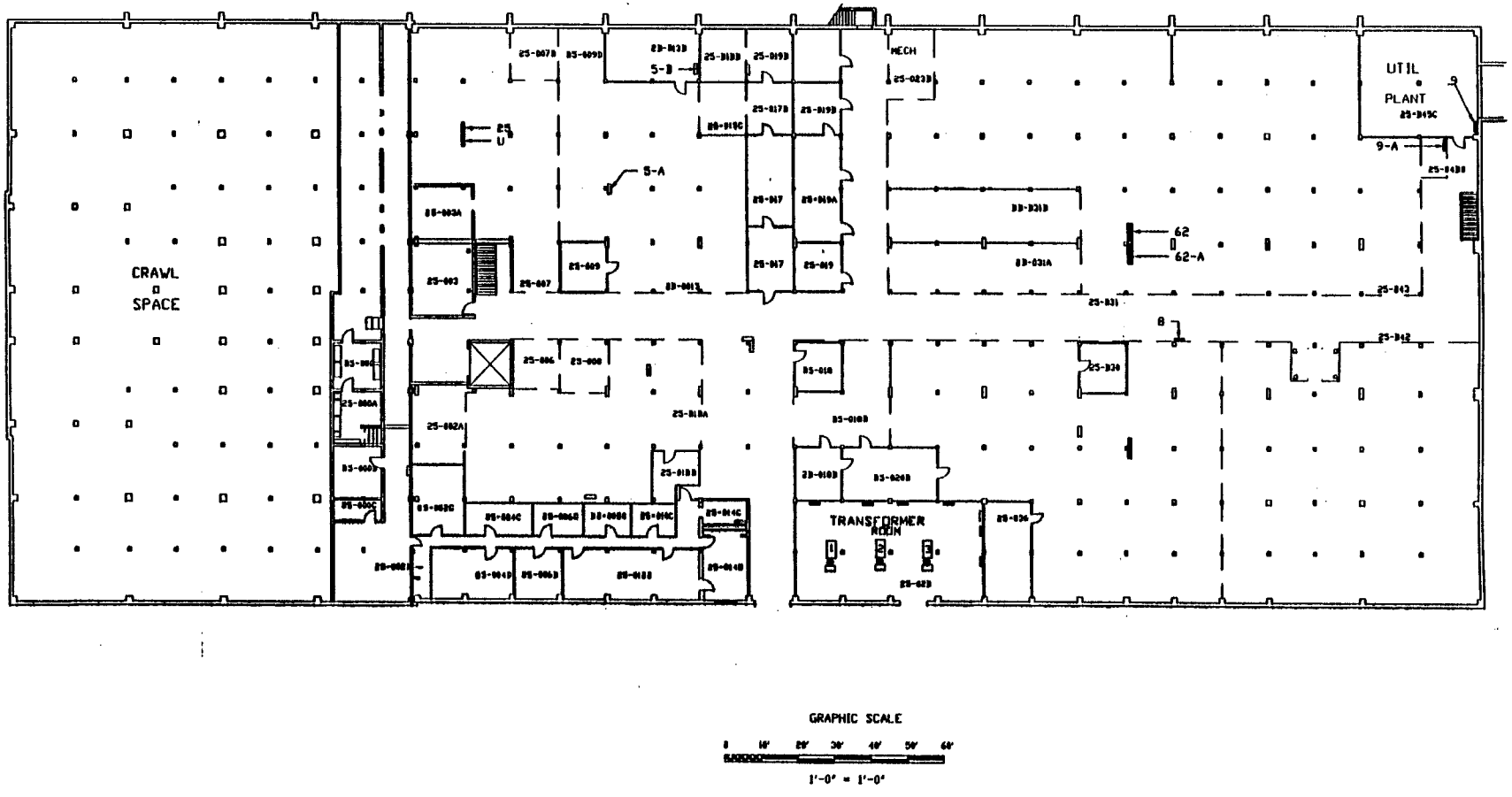
SOURCE: U. S. Navy NSWC White Oak Department of Public Works.

SURVEY NO. M:33-17, BUILDING 25 (FIRST FLOOR)
NSWC WHITE OAK, SILVER SPRING, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND



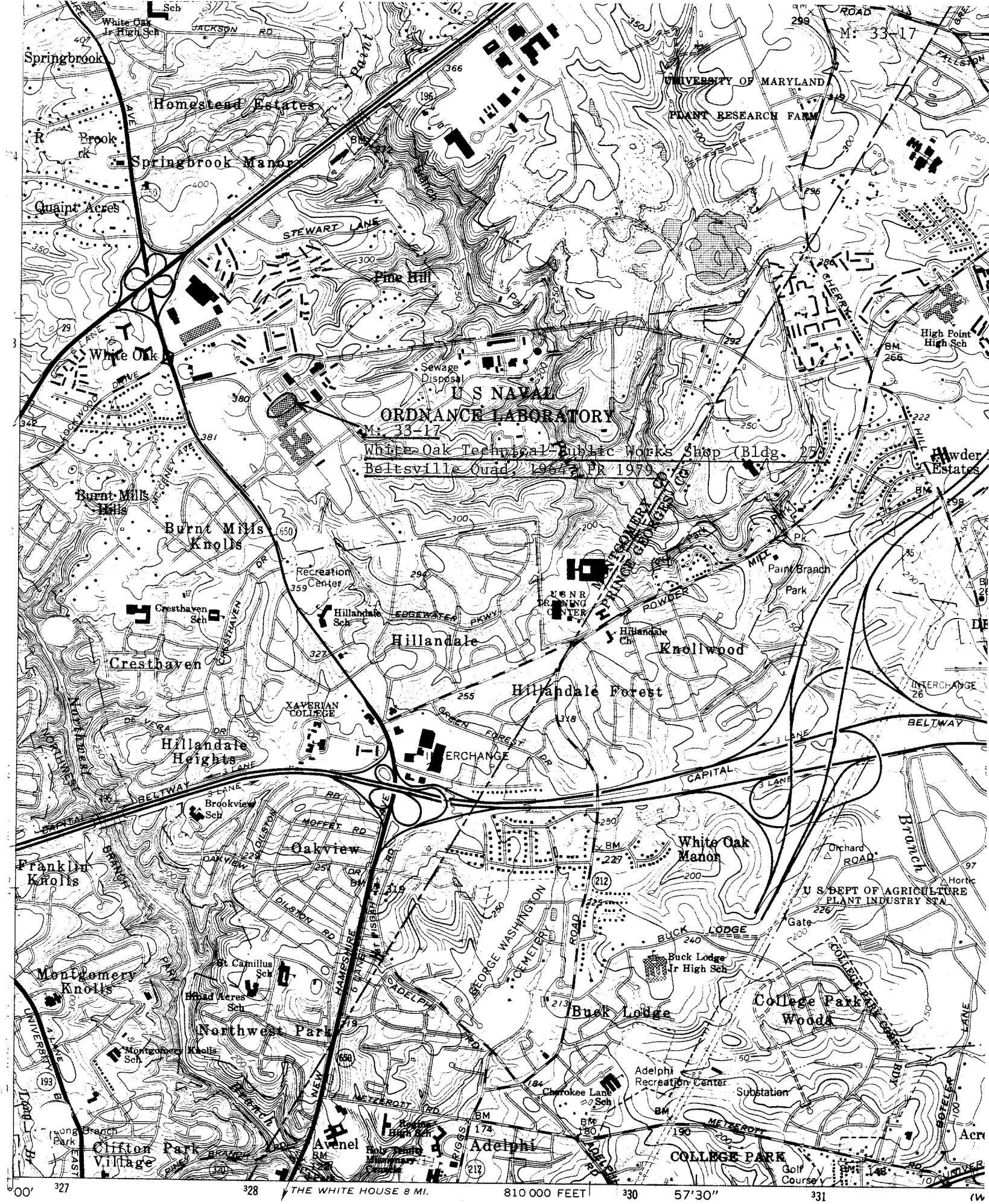
SOURCE: U. S. Navy NSWC White Oak Department of Public Works.

SURVEY NO. M:33-17, BUILDING 25 (SECOND FLOOR)
NSWC WHITE OAK, SILVER SPRING, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND



SOURCE: U. S. Navy NSWC White Oak Department of Public Works.

SURVEY NO. M:33-17, BUILDING 25 (BASEMENT)
NSWC WHITE OAK, SILVER SPRING, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, USSCS, and WSSC

M:33-17
NSWC White Oak Laboratory
Public Works Shop
Building 25
Montgomery Co MD
Ecology & Environment Inc
Nov 1993
US NAVY - EFA CHESAPEAKE
looking SE W. elevation
of Building 25


26 '94

(2)

M:33-17
NSWC White Oak laboratory
Public Works Shops
Building 25
Montgomery Co MD
Ecology & Environment Inc.
Jan 1994
US Navy EFA- CHESAPEAKK
Looking NNW E elevation
(rear) of Building 25

(3) M: 33-17
NSWC White Oak Laboratory
Public Works Shop
Building 25
Montgomery Co. MD
Ecology & Environment Inc
NOV 1993
US Navy - EFA Chesapeake
Looking ESE, North Elevation
Note: framework for over-
head traveling crane

MI: 33-17
NSWC - White Oak Laboratory
Public Works Shop
Building 25
Montgomery Co. MD
Ecology & Environment Inc.
Nov 1993
US NAVY EFA - Chesapeake
Looking east. Interior view of
Bay and work areas
Note jib cranes on walls and
overhead track cranes.